Midd Alumni against Genocide? Sign here!

By adding your full name and class year, you are agreeing to be added to the list of alumni who signed, which will be updated on a regular basis!

In addition to signing the letter, we also encourage you to email it to the office of the president president@middlebury.edu and to send it around to other friends to sign!

What SJP will do with the letter:
We have posted the content, not the names of the letter on Instagram @sjp_middlebury
We will read the content of the letters at our Teach-In Nov. 1st on campus

The Letter (running list of signees on the second page):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/17bjldQvIOrB5A23NZPO6a4KRFktFg8yZKw-X9limZb4/edit

As graduates, one of the hallmarks of our Middlebury education is our ability to embody the mission of addressing “the world's most challenging problems.” At the College, we not only engaged with these issues, but understood them critically, ethically, and equitably. Because of this, we were disappointed to see a letter from the administration on October 9th that purported to uphold these same values, but, in reality, contributed to a misguided and empty stance on Israel’s war in Gaza. Statements like Middlebury’s wholly and willingly ignore and erase the power differential between Palestine and Israel.

As alumni who believe all life is precious and are appalled by the murder of Palestinians and Israelis alike, we hope that Israeli hostages as well as Palestinian political prisoners, especially in the West Bank, are released. At the same time, we condemn the total and collective destruction of life in Gaza, which can only be described as genocidal.The College’s silence on this violence and human rights abuses inflicted by Israel is astonishing. It

is shocking that our alma mater, the very institution that "foster[ed] the inquiry, equity, and agency necessary for [us] to practical ethical citizenship", would so blatantly ignore the historical context of colonialism, dispossession, and occupation of Palestine.

We were frustrated at the way our alma mater promoted and handled the Jewish lives vigil that happened last week. We understand this event to have taken place and been justified from the pressure that Zionist parent and alumni groups, as well as external organizations like Chabad and StandWithUs, are exerting on the administration in an attempt to speak on behalf of all Jewish students. However, the Jewish student population on Middlebury is politically diverse and includes many anti-Zionist and pro-Palestinian Jews. Nonetheless, these alumni, parents, and organizations are vocal in *falsely* accusing students and groups like Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) of stepping on Israeli flags, blocking students from entering dining halls, and harassing Jewish students.

We have heard that Middlebury's culture of harassing pro-Palestinian students has already inhibited SJP's educational work. The harmful rhetoric of external, Zionist organizations conflates support for Palestinian liberation with antisemitism, creating a hostile environment for faculty, staff, and students who want to speak out against or are directly impacted by the ethnic cleansing. Arab, Muslim, and international students whose visa status may be at risk are also vulnerable to legal and vocational challenges. This discrimination is not new on our campus, as we have seen in the past, when escalations in colonial violence in Palestine cause physical and emotional harassment towards already marginalized students.

We are signing this letter as alumni from Arab, Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian, Israeli and many other backgrounds to urge Middlebury College to commit to their values of anti-racism and upholding justice. We hope that pressure from external groups and fear tactics like accusations of antisemitism do not impede the College's ability to align this institution on the side of justice. We demand that the administration do the following:

- Take a moral stance against the active genocide and call for a ceasefire, asserting that this cycle of violence will never end without the end of occupation.
- Condemn illegal Israeli practices of war crimes, specifically the blocking of food, fuel, water, electricity, and medicine to Gazans.
- Uphold the College's purported commitment to free speech by practicing it consistently and allowing pro-Palestinian voices to be voiced, while committing to their safety.

Not shared

Full name and class year (and dont forget to send the letter to president@middlebury.edu if you can!)

Your answer

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